

TORONTO'S LATEST STUNT.

But for the fact that Toronto is the greatest "stunt" city in the country, the news despatch from that place to the effect that the police commissioners had decided, on the recommendation of three of the members of the Board of Control, to refuse business licenses in future to any but British subjects and naturalized Canadians would hardly be credited. It is probably quite true, however, for the most popular stunt in Toronto is chasing menaces, and having long since censored the menace to its morals out of its theatres and squelched it out of its Sunday amusements, of late years it has had to search diligently for new ones. Early in the war it discovered one in German-Americans over the border, and its dignity was much offended when Sir SAM HUGHES offered it shot guns to defend itself. Then it stalked down a menace in the foreigners employed in its munitions factories and was entertained for quite a time, and latterly the Bolshevists have satisfied its passion. But the Bolshevists having adopted the policy of holding quiet and private smokers instead of public meetings, Toronto has had to hunt another menace and apparently it has found it in the foreigners doing business within its limits.

Surely, however, the police commissioners intended only to let the excitable people of Toronto have a night's rest free from the disturbing fear of the alien in their midst. It cannot mean to give effect to its decision. To do so would be to set Toronto apart from the freedom and liberty of the rest of the country. The new-comer to Canada would have to stay out of Toronto if he wished to enjoy the privilege of pursuing business and profit in any legitimate way he saw fit. The immigrant to Canada could not engage in Toronto in the restaurant business, the tobacco store business, or any other business licensed by the city until he had lived there for the years necessary to acquire naturalization. If the decision were enforced, many Americans and others would have to give up their establishments in Toronto at the end of their license year.

Toronto will probably find that it hasn't the authority to so restrict the liberty of people whom this country admits at its borders. At any rate, it shouldn't have. Such restrictions are not in accordance with the conditions on which immigrants come to this country.